

Message Text

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PM SANG MODERNIZATION RIYADH SAUDI ARABIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, SA, US (HRH PRINCE ABDULLAH IBN ABD AL-AZIZ AS-SA'UD)

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES

1. BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD D. LAWRENCE, PROJECT MANAGER, SAUDI ARABIAN NATIONAL GUARD MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (SANG-PM), HAS PROPOSED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT INVITE HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ABDULLAH IBN ABD AL-AZIZ AS-SA'UD, SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND COMMANDER OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN NATIONAL GUARD, TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES IN EARLY MAY OF THIS YEAR. WE FULLY CONCUR WITH THIS PROPOSAL.

2. SUCH AN INVITATION WOULD BE PROPITIOUS AND TIMELY FOR SEVERAL REASONS:

A. PRINCE ABDULLAH, AS SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, IS NUMBER THREE IN THE KINGDOM'S HIERARCHY. HE IS A CLOSE CONFIDANT OF KING KHALID, AND MAINTAINS CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS WITH LEADERS OF MANY ARAB COUNTRIES.

B. PRINCE ABDULLAH HAS NEVER BEEN TO THE UNITED STATES, NOR, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, HAS HE EVER BEEN INVITED TO VISIT THERE. YET, CROWN PRINCE FAHD, HIS IMMEDIATE SENIOR, AND PRINCES SULTAN AND TURKI, BELOW PRINCE ABDULLAH IN RANK AND, IN A SENSE, MILITARY

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COMPETITORS WITHIN THE KINGDOM, HAVE HAD NUMEROUS VISITS THERE

AND WERE RECEIVED WITH CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION AND SOLICITATION.

C. PRINCE ABDULLAH HAS MADE SEVERAL VISITS TO EUROPE, AND HAS BEEN ROYALLY RECEIVED IN BOTH GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE. THOSE

COUNTRIES HAVE PERSISTENTLY TRIED TO PERSUADE HIM TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES FOR SALES AND SERVICES TO THE NATIONAL GUARD, BUT PRINCE ABDULLAH HAS PREFERRED TO DEAL WITH THE UNITED STATES.

D. BETWEEN APRIL AND JUNE OF THIS YEAR, THE SANG PMO WILL PRESENT TO PRINCE ABDULLAH FOR CONSIDERATION TWO MAJOR PROGRAMS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL GUARD: A NATIONWIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR COMMAND, CONTROL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, AND A CONCEPT FOR A TOTAL INTEGRATED LOGISTICS AND MAINTENANCE SYSTEM. THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS ALREADY PROPOSED ON THE COMMUNICATIONS PACKAGE, AND A BRITISH FIRM, CHRYSLER INTERNATIONAL, HAS SPONSORED PROPOSALS FOR A MAINTENANCE PROGRAM. PRINCE ABDULLAH HAS DEMURRED ON BOTH PROPOSALS FOR THE TIME BEING, AND ASKED THE UNITED STATES, THROUGH THE SANG PMO, TO MAKE PROPOSALS ALSO. A VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, DURING WHICH PRINCE ABDULLAH COULD BE BRIEFED ON ONE OR BOTH OF THE U.S. PROPOSALS, WOULD ASSIST THE SANG PMO, AND CONTRIBUTE TO SELECTION OF U.S. CONCEPTS.

3. THE PROJECT MANAGER, SANG MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, HAS BROACHED THIS SUBJECT AT THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT LEVEL IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY. THE RESPONSE WAS ENCOURAGING, AND WE BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WOULD CONSIDER SUPPORTING SUCH A VISIT DURING THE TIME SUGGESTED. AFTER PROPER PROTOCOL VISITS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., TRIPS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, TO SEE EQUIPMENT AND UNITS IN ACTION, WITH STOPS FOR SIGHTSEEING AND RELAXATION, COULD PROVIDE A BALANCED AND IMPRESSIVE ITINERARY. BRIEFINGS, WHERE APPROPRIATE, ON THE PROGRAMS THE U.S. CAN SPONSOR TO IMPROVE THE GUARD, SHOULD BE INCLUDED.

4. TWO FINAL OBSERVATIONS:

A. PRINCE ABDULLAH SHOULD BE INVITED AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL, AND SHOULD BE RECEIVED WITH MORE ATTENTION THAN WERE PRINCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SULTAN AND PRINCE TURKI, OR THE VISIT COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

B. PRINCE ABDULLAH HAS A SIGNIFICANT SPEECH IMPEDIMENT WHICH IS MORE PRONOUNCED IF HE MUST SPEAK IN LARGE GROUPS, OR AMONG A NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH WHOM HE IS NOT FAMILIAR. IN INTIMATE CONVERSATION THE IMPEDIMENT IS NOT SO PRONOUNCED. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN PLANNING MEETINGS AND VISITS SO AS TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT.

5. AN EARLY, POSITIVE, RESPONSE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. AMBASSADOR
PORTER
HAS CONCURRED IN SUBSTANCE WITH THIS PROPOSAL.
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